Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS CAIRO 4938

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BCOM, EGEN, EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR FOREIGN COMPANIES

1. THE PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY ON JULY 2 APPROVED A BILL AUTHORIZING EGYPTIAN NATIONALS TO REPRESENT FOREIGN FIRMS. THE REGULATIONS IMPLENTING THIS DECISION ARE TO BE ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENCY.

- 2. SINCE THE ISSUANCE OF DECREE LAW 107 OF JULY 11, 1961, ONLY GOVERNMENT COMPANIES OR COMPANIES SUBORDINATE TO PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS (AND IN WHICH THE EGYPTIAN SHARE OF THE CAPITAL WAS AT LEART 25 PERCENT) WERE PERMITTED TO REGISTER AS REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN FIRMS. INDIVIDUALS WERE LIMITED TO ACTING AS CONSULTANTS AND COULD NOT, FOR EXAMPLE, BUY ON CONSIGNMENT. THERE ARE NEVERTHELESS, A LARGE NUMBER OF SUCH "CONSULTANTS".
- 3. COMMENT: THE NEW MEASURE WAS ANNOUNCED AS FURTHER STEP IN THE ECONOMIC OPEN-DOOR POLICY. FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER HEGAZI, COMMENTING ON THE BILL, STRESSED THE INTENT OF THE GOE TO "PRESERVE THE GAINS OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR" AND ENSURE THT IT IS NOT DAMAGED BY THE ACTIVITIES OF "BUSINESS AGENCIES".
- 4. THERE IS NO SHORTAGE OF ACTIVE PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN IN CAIRO HAVING CLOSE AND LONG-STANDING RELATIONSHIPS WITH COMPANIES ABROAD, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF US FIRMS. WHILE EXCHANGE CONTROLS AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS WILL CONTINUE TO LIMIT THE IMPORTATION OF MANY COMMODITIES, THE OPPORTUNITY UNCLASSIFIED

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TO FUNCTIONAS A DIRECT REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD FACILITATE

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF SALES FOR THE PARENT FIRMS.
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